

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) A disk substrate for a perpendicular magnetic recording medium, which comprises:

a disk base member;

a soft magnetic layer formed on the disk base member; and

a protection layer formed on a surface of the soft magnetic layer, wherein:

the protection layer is an amorphous layer, and

the protection layer serves to reduce a grain size of an underlayer to be formed on the disk substrate, the underlayer controlling grain and orientation of a perpendicular magnetic recording layer to be formed on the underlayer.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) A disk substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein: the protection layer is made of a non-magnetic substance.

4. (original) A disk substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein: the protection layer is a carbon layer.

5. (original) A disk substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein: the disk base member is made of glass.

6. (original) A disk substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein: the disk base member has a principal surface provided with a texture for giving magnetic anisotropy to the soft magnetic layer.

7. (original) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk comprising: the disk substrate claimed in claim 1; and

at least a perpendicular magnetic recording layer formed on the disk substrate.

8. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a disk substrate for a perpendicular magnetic recording medium, comprising the steps of:  
depositing a soft magnetic layer on a disk base member by sputtering; and depositing a protection layer on the soft magnetic layer by sputtering.

9. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a perpendicular magnetic recording disk, comprising the steps of:  
heating the disk substrate claimed in claim 1; and  
depositing at least a perpendicular magnetic recording layer on the disk substrate.